

Application No.: 10/631,909

Case No.: 56295US004

Remarks

Claims 1 to 22 are pending. Claims 2, 8, 18, 19, 20, 21, and 22 have been cancelled. Claims 1 and 9 are amended.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8 and 18 have been indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have rewritten claims 8 and 18 in independent form as amended claims 1 and 9, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 1-7, 9-17, and 19-22 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Reed (US 4,246,058). The Patent Office asserts in part that: Reed discloses a method of applying tape to a surface including the steps a) providing a tape having a backing, an adhesive on the backing, and wherein the tape is on a liner, b) cutting the tape to provide a first length of tape, a second length of tape, and a removable portion of tape between first and second lengths of tape, (c) removing the removable tape from the liner, d) separating the first length of tape from the liner, and e) applying the first length of tape to the surface. The Patent Office further asserts in part that Reed discloses: in Figures 1 and 11 where both first and second ends of the removable portion 20 has curved portions (corners) which are oblique.

Since claims 8 and 18 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, the above rejection is rendered moot.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 7 and 17 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reed (US 4,246,058). The Patent Office asserts in part that Reed does not specifically recite that such

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labels contain indicia (decoration) but that it is conventional to have indicia on tape which is later die cut into labels such that the print can be registered with labels correctly.

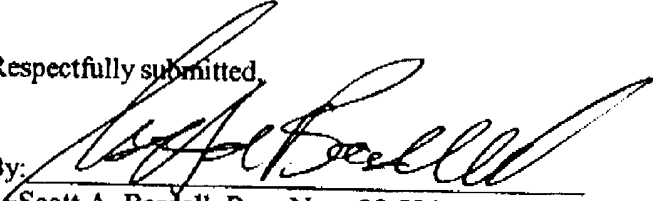
Since claims 8 and 18 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, the above rejection is rendered moot.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Allowance of claims 1, 3 - 7, and 9 - 17, at an early date is solicited.

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Date

Respectfully submitted,

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